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Diana T Fritz 05/24/2007 04:47:34 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

March 23, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1382 - UNKNOWN)
TAGS: PREL, PGOV
Captions: None
Subject: (S) UAE TO KEEP IRAQI MISSIONS OPEN, BUT FULLY BOXED-IN
Ref: None

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 01382

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: ECON
INFO: P/M AMB DCM POL
Laser1:
INFO: FCS

DISSEMINATION: ECON
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB:MMWAHBA
DRAFTED: ECON:TEWILLIAMS
CLEARED: DCM:RAALBRIGHT, PMIL:MFWOLVER

VZCZCADI481
OO RUEHC RUCNRAQ
DE RUEHAD #1382 0821332
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
O 231332Z MAR 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9001
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 001382

SIPDIS

NOFORN

STATE FOR NEA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/23/13
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [IZ](#) [TC](#)
SUBJECT: (S) UAE TO KEEP IRAQI MISSIONS OPEN, BUT
FULLY BOXED-IN
REF: STATE 75557

¶1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY AMBASSADOR MARCELLE M. WAHBA
FOR REASONS 1.5 (B,D).

¶2. (S) AMBASSADOR DELIVERED REFTTEL DEMARCHE ON
THE AFTERNOON OF 3/23 TO MFA MINSTATE SHAYKH
HAMDAN BIN ZAYID (OTHER TOPICS SEPTTEL, NOTAL).
SHAYKH HAMDAN REPEATED WHAT HE HAS TOLD US BEFORE
-- NAMELY, THAT THE UAEG IS RELUCTANT TO CLOSE
IRAQ'S DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HERE BECAUSE OF THE
"GREAT VALUE" BEING DERIVED FROM THE UAE MISSION
IN BAGHDAD. DESIROUS OF AVOIDING A TIT-FOR-TAT

CLOSURE, THE UAEG HAS MADE CLEAR TO THE IRAQI DIPLOMATS HERE THAT THEY ARE TO BEHAVE THEMSELVES. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED IN PARTICULAR THE NEED TO KEEP TABS ON IRAQI INTELLIGENCE SERVICE OPERATIVES. SHAYKH HAMDAN REASSURED THE AMBASSADOR THAT SURVEILLANCE OF THE OFFICIAL IRAQIS IS CONSTANT AND INTRUSIVELY OBVIOUS. HE BELIEVED THEY HAD GOTTEN THE MESSAGE.

13. (S/NF) SHAYKH HAMDAN NOTED THAT HE GETS CALLS 3-4 TIMES PER DAY FROM THE UAE CHARGE IN BAGHDAD (USING A THURAYYA SATELLITE TELEPHONE). THE EMIRATI MISSION IS ABLE TO GLEAN USEFUL INFORMATION FROM ITS CONTACTS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS INSIDE IRAQ (INDEED, DURING THE MEETING THE EMIRATI CHARGE IN BAGHDAD CALLED SHAYKH HAMDAN TO REPORT ON 20 EXPLOSIONS IN WESTERN BAGHDAD AROUND THE TAJI MILITARY COMPLEX AND A NUMBER OF OTHER SITES). AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE INFORMATION THE UAEG IS ABLE TO OBTAIN, THE MFA MINSTATE CONFIDED THAT IRAQI SOURCES HAVE TOLD THE EMIRATIS IN BAGHDAD THAT ALI HASSAN AL-MAJID (AKA "CHEMICAL ALI) IS DEAD.

14. (S/NF) COMMENT: THE UAE CLEARLY BELIEVES THAT THE THREAT POSED BY ALLOWING IRAQI MISSIONS TO REMAIN OPEN HERE HAS BEEN EFFECTIVELY MITIGATED BY AGGRESSIVE SURVEILLANCE, STRICT WARNINGS TO IRAQI DIPLOMATS, AND THE COOPTION OF KEY PERSONNEL (MOST NOTABLY THE IRAQI AMBASSADOR). WE WOULD NOTE THAT ORCA CHIEF HERE IS OF A SIMILAR VIEW. GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE THE UAEG ATTACHES TO KEEPING TABS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN IRAQ, AND THE RELATIVELY EXTENSIVE NETWORK OF CONTACTS WHICH THE UAEG ENJOYS IN BAGHDAD AND BEYOND, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE UAEG IS LIKELY TO CHANGE ITS VIEW THAT CLOSING IRAQ'S DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HERE IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF THE EMIRATES.

WAHBA